

## **COUNCIL CORNER: Progress continues in beach communities**

By City Councilmember KEVIN FAULCONER  
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If you have driven past Sunset Cliffs and West Point Loma boulevards recently, hopefully you have seen the work under way at the northwest corner.

Thanks to numerous Obecians, this heavily-traveled intersection is undergoing a significant beautification. The OB Gateway project is going to enrich a key intersection in Ocean Beach, one of the finest beach communities in Southern California and home to terrific places like Newport Avenue and Sunset Cliffs.

The overall project site at Sunset Cliffs and West Point Loma is about 12,900 square feet. The site was previously occupied by commercial establishments.

Plans call for a park that incorporates a decorative plaza that provides pedestrian access into the adjacent Robb Field Community Park. The improvement also will serve as a gateway for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians entering Ocean Beach from the north.

The proposed improvements include granite surfacing, decorative hardscape and paving, native landscaping, signage, public art, an art wall, drainage improvements, lighting, bicycle rack, trees, benches and ADA improvements.

The city broke ground in December and the project should be finished next month. You can be sure I will be out there for the ribbon-cutting ceremony next to some of the people who put in time and money to get this project across the finish line.

Those people include Ocean Beach Community Development Corporation (OBCDC) President Brian Pottenger and past President Chris Kern. Without the OBCDC, which spearheaded the project, helped with fundraising and kept things moving, there would be no OB Gateway project. So thank you.

**Over in Mission Beach,** we're looking forward to undergrounding the utility lines from the south jetty to San Fernando Place. I was successful in preventing this important work from being pushed out to 2062.

**In Pacific Beach,** the city is replacing the worn-out public restrooms at Palisades Park — a beautiful park with amazing views of the coast. I want to thank the Pacific Beach Community Planning Group and local residents, who worked with architects on a design that the community planning group approved Jan. 26.

**At City Hall,** I have been working hard to oppose Gov. Jerry Brown's plan to disband redevelopment agencies across the state.

The governor's plan would have a devastating effect on San Diegans at a time when numerous working families and small businesses are struggling to make ends meet. It's not San Diego's job to bail out the state, which should tackle its own spending and runaway pension costs.

Along with eliminating jobs and tax revenue in San Diego, the governor's plan would cut into the progress of numerous San Diego neighborhoods. The city's 19 redevelopment areas reinvest tax dollars locally, stimulating job growth in our economy. Those tax dollars would be diverted to Sacramento's black hole if the governor's budget is approved.

At my request, the City Council recently sent a resolution to the governor outlining San Diego's opposition. I also succeeded in moving up the approval process for four important redevelopment projects.

Redevelopment has been a remarkable success in San Diego. It's a powerful economic tool that should remain in place.

*— Kevin Faulconer is San Diego Council President Pro Tem and represents District 2, which includes Ocean Beach, Point Loma, Pacific Beach and Mission Beach.*